

Series: Characteristics of a Dynamic Christian
Title: The Disciple of Giving
Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Introduction

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." — John Bunyan

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes?...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

1. Have you ever noticed that truly generous people are some of the most _____ people in the world?
2. Devout Christians have learned the secret of generosity and have developed a discipline of _____.
3. Devout Christians have experienced God's _____ and have adopted His spirit of giving for themselves.
4. One of the great themes of the gospels is_____.
5. God proposes _____, while the world promotes fear.
6. The world encourages entitlement when everything is really a _____ from God.
7. Generosity begins with _____.
8. Devout Christians believe that God is _____.
9. God invites you to be _____ with what you do have with a spirit of gratefulness and thankfulness.

I. Devout Christians are Good Stewards

10. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something _____ to our care.
11. Our time, talent and treasure are on _____ to us from God.
12. You cannot be a generous steward without developing the _____ of giving.
13. Devout Christians are generous with their resources because they believe God's _____ is inexhaustible.
14. Devout Christians feel no need to turn to _____ because they have put their trust in God's endless supply.
15. We cannot do everything, but does that mean we should do _____?
16. Devout Christians realize the need is ever-present, and they believe that _____ is the solution for every problem and every person.

II. Devout Christians are Generous

17. Devout Christians are generous with their time, their _____, and with their money and possessions.
18. Devout Christians not only have a spirit of generosity but a _____ of being giving people.
19. Being generous is not just something that they do; it is a part of who they _____!
20. Devout Christians are also generous with their praise and their _____.
21. They are generous because they have a profound sense of gratitude to God for all the _____ He has given them.
22. The discipline of generous giving is a _____ part of being a dynamic Christian.

23. Devout Christians are generous with _____.
24. Dynamic Christians love _____!
25. Devout Christians are generous with their _____ and kindness.
26. Their love is so deep and generous that they will always _____ in you, always expect the best of you, and always stand their ground defending you.

III. Devout Christians Give What They Have

27. Most everyone thinks they are generous; until they have to part with some of their time, talent, or _____.
28. Jesus said the woman who gave two mites out gave any of the other _____.
29. Devout Christians don't find the time to do things for God; they _____ time to do it.
30. _____ is key to personal growth.
31. Some things are difficult to measure—Other things are easy to measure, such as how generous you are with your _____.
32. There may be many ways to express your generosity, but they are all interconnected and flow from one _____.
33. Jesus said, "Where your _____ is, there will your heart be also."
34. 2 Corinthians 9:6, "But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a _____ giver.

35. Devout Christian's generosity is both authentic and _____.

Conclusion

36. In the New Testament we are encouraged to give according to what we _____; the more we have, the more we should give.

37. Devout Christians believe they can never out-give _____!

The average Christian tends to give away only a fraction of their surplus, and most give what they never really needed to begin with. Sacrificial giving costs us and requires us to go without something. Think about God's sacrifice to provide salvation. The poorest among us has enough to be generous.

We have goals for everything in life. So why not set some generosity goals for yourself this year? You will be amazed at how this approach to generosity will change you.

ANSWERS

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| 1. Joyful | 20. Appreciation |
| 2. Giving | 21. Blessings |
| 3. Love | 22. Vital |
| 4. Generosity | 23. Virtue |
| 5. Trust | 24. People |
| 6. Gift | 25. Patience |
| 7. Gratefulness | 26. Believe |
| 8. Good | 27. Money |
| 9. Content | 28. Contributors |
| 10. Entrusted | 29. Make |
| 11. Loan | 30. Measurement |
| 12. Discipline | 31. Money |
| 13. Supply | 32. Heart |
| 14. Greed | 33. Treasure |
| 15. Nothing | 34. Cheerful |
| 16. Christ | 35. Measurable |
| 17. Talent | 36. Have |
| 18. Spirituality | 37. God |
| 19. Are | |